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To: <OGMCOAL@utah.gov>, <darronhaddock@utah.gov>
Date: 5/13/2008 3:18 PM
Subject: Comment for Coal Hollow Project C/025/0005
Attachments: Alton Coal comment letter.doc

Attached you will find my letter supporting the Coal Hollow Project.

Best Regards

Jerry Frei

May 12, 2008

Jerry Frei
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To whom it may concern:

This letter is being written in regards to Alton Coal Development's Coal Hollow Project. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opinion in support of this project and attempt to explain the reasoning for this support.

With the recent closing of the Cradle Canyon Mine, closing of other mines that have been determined unsafe, and the depletion of coal reserves in the already existing mines in the state, a new source of high quality low cost coal is needed to supply the growing demand for electricity in our state and the surrounding area. 94% of the electricity in the State of Utah is derived from coal generated sources. I, like most people, like to have the lights come on when I flip the switch. Although there are other sources of electricity, coal is the number one source of electricity in the state right now, and development of other sources takes time and money. The money issue is foremost in my mind, this is because as an end user, I know that ultimately the expense to switch to another source of power will be passed on to me as the consumer. It is my opinion that we need to utilize the natural resources that we have readily available as we continue to develop other less expensive, cleaner sources of electricity.

There are always environmental concerns to consider with any project like Coal Hollow. My understanding of the project leads me to believe that Alton Coal Development has taken the necessary steps to insure that the project's effect on the environment will be minimized. This can be illustrated by the fact that they will be reclaiming the area affected as they continue to mine the coal in other areas. This process will minimize the impact to the environment by reducing the overall active size of the project at any given time. It will also speed the process of reclaiming the site. I believe that Alton Coal Development has done a significant amount of due diligence in regard to keeping the environmental impact as minimal as possible.

Another point to look at in considering the mine application is the benefit to the local economy. This will be a long term project that will provide long term stable employment opportunities that will pay above average wages for the area. The economic benefit to the area will be substantial. Not only will the employees of the project live and spend money in the area, many businesses that support the mine will benefit as well. Equipment dealers, industrial suppliers, fuel distributors, and trucking companies are just a few of the local companies that will benefit

from this project. This type of project has a trickledown effect on the economy, employees who have long term stable employment buy homes and their families live in the area having a long term effect on the local economy.

Alton Coal Development has been working closely with the local communities and the citizens of those communities to make sure that they address the concerns related to the project. They are actively working to keep the local communities informed, they are actively trying to answer their questions, and are actively working to resolve the concerns of the local citizens. Alton Coal has been proactive in this area, trying to make sure that the local communities do not get any surprises in relation to the project.

I may not receive any direct benefit from the Coal Hollow Project; I believe however, that allowing the project to proceed will provide low cost, high quality coal that will provide power for me and my family. Coal fired power plants may not be the answer in the future, however, until we develop a suitable replacement, I think it is important to do what is necessary to keep costs down. Using a resource that is readily available will help accomplish this goal. If this project helps keep my power bill from going up, then it is a benefit to me. If the project provides economic benefits to my community, then it is a benefit to me. I believe that a project like this one will help wages in the area to increase. I also believe that it will help other businesses not directly related to mining to succeed and prosper. This also will be a benefit to me and my family.

In conclusion I would ask that the application for the Coal Hollow Project be accepted. This project has my full support.

Sincerely,

Jerry Frei